

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A network-based, computer-implemented method of fulfilling freight shipment between a first location and a second location, the method comprising:

receiving, using a computer, a derivative purchase request for capacity between said first location and said second location, said derivative purchase request having contract requirements that specify at least a shipment volume and a performance time, said computer including at least hardware and software;

ascertaining, using said computer, from a database of available derivative contracts a plurality of derivative contracts that satisfy said contract requirements;

selecting, using said computer, a subset of said plurality of derivative contracts to satisfy said derivative purchase request with multiple separate derivative contracts, said subset including at least a first derivative contract for a first transportation mode of at least two transportation modes and a second derivative contract for a second transportation mode of said at least two transportation modes, said first transportation mode being different from said second transportation mode;

receiving, using said computer, information restriction requirements from at least a participant, said information restriction requirements limiting a first specified information set to a first specified recipient set, said information restriction requirements limiting a second specified information set to a second specified recipient set, said first specified information set and said second specified information set pertaining to said participant, said first specified information set and said second specified information set being stored in said database, said participant representing at least one of a shipping party, a carrying party, a forwarding party, and a market making party;

providing, using said computer, said first specified information set to at least a recipient of said first specified recipient set based on said information restriction requirements, said first specified information set including at least one of shipment data and shipment forecast data, said

shipment forecast data pertaining to at least one of forecast capacity data and forecast shipping volume data for shipping between said first location and said second location;

providing, using said computer, said second specified information set to at least a recipient of said second specified recipient set based on said information requirements; and
preventing, using said computer, a party not in said first specified recipient set from viewing said first specified information set.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising limiting said at least one of said shipment data and said shipment forecast data in said first specified information set to at least one of a specified shipment lane, a specified location, a specified shipment mode, and a specified time period, wherein

said participant is a shipper, and

said first specified recipient set includes a forwarder.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
providing location-specific shipment forecast data to forwarders; and
preventing shippers from viewing said location-specific shipment forecast data.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving data pertaining to capacity releases from shippers, each of said capacity releases specifying a shipment volume and an origination point and a destination point, each of said capacity releases further specifying performance details including one of a departure time, a time en-route, and an arrival time;

bundling selected ones of said capacity releases into said available derivative contracts, wherein at least one of said available derivative contracts comprises a plurality of said capacity releases.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said bundling includes grouping capacity releases that involve geographically proximal origination and destination points.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said bundling further includes grouping capacity releases that fall within a predefined time window.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said bundling includes grouping capacity releases that fall within a predefined time window.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
providing an adjustment market facility for allowing a purchaser of said capacity between said first location and said second location pursuant to said subset of said plurality of derivative contracts to trade a specific component of said subset of said plurality of derivative contracts with other participants of the freight industry.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving shipment forecasts pertaining to future shipments and self-assessed qualitative ratings associated with said shipment forecasts;
aggregating said shipment forecasts and qualitative ratings into aggregated shipment forecasts and aggregated qualitative ratings; and
furnishing said aggregated shipment forecasts and said aggregated qualitative ratings to a trader to enable said trader to evaluate a volume of derivative contracts to be purchased, said trader representing one of a market maker, a forwarder, and a carrier.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein a self-assessed qualitative rating of said self-assessed qualitative ratings involves a shipper's self-assessment of at least four of a set of criteria that includes demand, manufacturing readiness, manufacturing location, capacity, product, lane, and lane stability.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein a self-assessed qualitative rating of said self-assessed qualitative ratings involves a shipper's self-assessment of a set of criteria that includes demand, manufacturing readiness, manufacturing location, capacity, product, lane, and lane stability.
12. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

computing quantitative ratings pertaining to said shipment forecasts, said quantitative ratings being based at least on historical data pertaining to past shipment forecasts and past actual shipment volume;

aggregating said quantitative ratings into aggregated quantitative ratings; and

furnishing said aggregated quantitative ratings to said trader.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first transportation mode represents one of an air transportation mode, a sea transportation mode, a rail transportation mode, and a truck transportation mode, said second transportation mode represent a different one of said air transportation mode, said sea transportation mode, said rail transportation mode, and said truck transportation mode.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a derivative contract trading facility to enable market makers to electronically trade said first derivative contract and said second derivative contract prior to expiration.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing data pertaining to said first derivative contract and said second derivative contract to an electronic booking system based on performance time of said first derivative contract to book capacity for shipment using said first transportation mode and said second transportation mode respectively.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising
computing freight indices based on historical shipment volume between said first location and said second location; and

furnishing said aggregated shipment forecasts and said aggregated qualitative ratings to a trader, said trader representing one of a market maker, a forwarder, and a carrier.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said derivative purchase request represents futures purchase request.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said derivative purchase request represents option purchase request.